

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

The Examiner indicates that claims 10-12 are allowed.

Claims 1-4, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Uchida (U.S. Patent 4,941,021). claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Uchida in view of Maruchi (U.S. Patent 6,338,481). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Uchida in view of Maruchi and Ahne (U.S. Patent 6,406,110). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, and 15 are amended. These amendments are fully supported in the originally-filed specification. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Uchida fails to teach or suggest “calculating an aggregate carry amount of said recording medium,” as recited in each of claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, and 15. In Uchida, the size of the loop of the recording material is *detected by the use of the sensor 13*, and the speed of the pair of fixing rollers are controlled in correspondence to the detection signal of the sensor 13.

Therefore Uchida fails to teach or suggest “calculating an aggregate carry amount of said recording medium,” and also fails to teach or suggest changing the carry command value “based on a result of said step of calculating said aggregate carry amount of said recording medium,” as recited in the claims.

Neither Maruchi nor Ahne, nor any combination of the cited references, compensates for these deficiencies in Uchida.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4, and 13-15 are patentable over any reasonable combination of the cited references and that claims 3, and 5-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

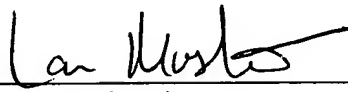
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